

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /081 W  
-----099123 191215Z /44

P 191130Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5965  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3379

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: FR, TZ  
SUBJECT: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER CANCELS TANZANIA VISIT

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD CANCELLED THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO TANZANIA AFTER TANGOV REFUSED TO APOLOGIZE OR EXPRESS REGRET FOR ANTI-FRENCH DEMONSTRATIONS AT HIS ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT. DEGUIRINGAUD ARRIVED DAR ES SALAAM AUGUST 18 AND LEAVES AUGUST 19. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE SOME 200 DEMONSTRATORS, MAINLY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, GREETED FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER AT DAR ES SALAAM AIRPORT AUGUST 18 WITH PLACARDS PROTESTING FRENCH ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA. DEMONSTRATORS APPARENTLY MOVED INTO CLOSE RANGE, AT ONE STAGE BRIEFLY BLOCKING DEGUIRINGAUD'S AND HOST FOREIGN MINISTER MKAPA'S ROUTE TO RECEPTION LOUNGE. OVER NEXT SEVERAL MINUTES DEGUIRINGAUD PROTESTED LOUDLY ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATIONS. DEGUIRINGAUD DEMANDED DEMONSTRATIONS CEASE OR HE WOULD LEAVE. HE REFUSED TO TAKE QUESTIONS FROM NEWSMEN UNLESS DEMONSTRATORS QUIETED. DEGUIRINGAUD SAID HE WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND NO ONE ANY-  
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WHERE HAD SUBJECTED HIM TO THAT KIND OF TREATMENT.

3. MKAPA PERSUADED DEGUIRINGAUD TO CONTINUE INTO TOWN TO HIS HOTEL. FRENCH DEMANDED AN APOLOGY FROM TANGOV WHICH WAS REFUSED. DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT OF REGRET WAS ALSO REFUSED. IT WAS THEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE VISIT WAS OFF. DEGUIRINGAUD DID NOT HOLD SCHEDULED TALKS WITH NYERERE AND MKAPA.

4. EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF AUGUST 19 CHARGED THAT IT WAS RIDICULOUS TO EXPECT AN APOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST FRENCH POLICIES IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY THE "SALE OF LETHAL ARMS TO OUR ENEMIES IN SOUTH AFRICA". AS A FRENCHMAN, DEGUIRINGAUD WOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH DEMONSTRATIONS. WHAT REALLY BOTHERED HIM WAS THAT TANZANIA WOULD NOT LOOK ON FRANCE WITH RESPECT AS A "MOTHER COUNTRY". "SOMEWHERE ELSE IN AFRICA HE KNOWS HE COULD HAVE RECEIVED A WARM RECEPTION, THE ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA NOTWITHSTANDING. NOT IN TANZANIA AND NO REGRETS ABOUT THAT. BON VOYAGE."

5. COMMENT: ONLY A LITTLE LESS SURPRISING THAN DEGUIRINGAUD'S CANCELLATION IS THE FACT THAT HE GOT HERE AT ALL. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK OF A WESTERN COUNTRY FOR WHICH TANZANIA HAS GREATER CONTEMPT. FAULT IS PARTICULARLY FOUND WITH FRENCH ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY ALLEGED COMMERCIAL SUCCESSES IN RHODESIA AND FRANCE'S PERENNIAL GRIP ON SOME FRANCOPHONE MEMBERS OF THE OAU. IT IS PERHAPS IRONIC THAT WHILE DEGUIRINGAUD WAS HAVING HIS BAD MOMENT AT THE AIRPORT THE VISITING PRIME MINISTER OF GUINEA WAS BEING SUCCESSFULLY FETED NOT FAR AWAY.

6. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEMONSTRATIONS LIES WITH THE TANGOV WHICH TRANSPORTED THE STUDENTS AND SANCTIONED THEIR ACTIVITIES. PERHAPS MATTERS WENT FARTHER THAN EXPECTED. STUDENTS  
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WERE HAULED OUT TO GREET FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER IN SIMILAR STYLE IN SEPTEMBER 1976 BUT WERE NOT ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE PROCEEDINGS.

7. WE EXPECT THAT DEGUIRINGAUD MAY HAVE FELT VERY MUCH ON THE DEFENSIVE ABOUT HIS TANZANIAN VISIT AND WAS THEREFORE ILL- PREPARED TO ADJUST TO HIS WELCOME. IF FRANCE IS SINCERE ABOUT CHANGING ITS SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY WE BELIEVE THAT A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN LOST TO EXPLAIN ITS NEW OUTLOOK TO NYERERE AND IMPROVE ITS POSITION IN TANZANIA.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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